

G. *Not entered with 188*
Discharge
AN INAUGURAL ESSAY

Passed March 1828

ON

ANEURISM;

for the

Degree

of

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE,

in the

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA;

By

Anthony C. Percival

of

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia.

Nov. 1827

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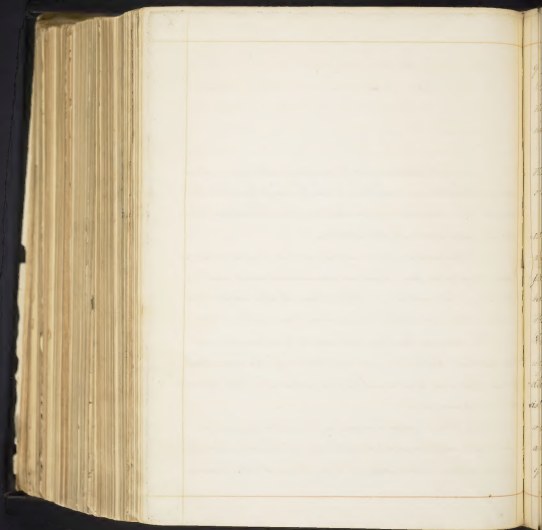
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Aneurism is a term of Greek origin expressive of dilatation, and was probably employed to designate the tumours dependent on the dilatation of one or more coats of the artery.

It has however been employed in a more general sense signifying any tumour communicating with the cavity of the vessel. According to this latter definition these conditions may have been noticed.

The tumour has been observed to be connected with the partial destruction and dilatation of the immediate coats of the artery, constituting what has been termed a true aneurism.

When the tumour has arisen from the division of the coats, and consequent effusion of blood contained in an adcutitious sac, it has received the name

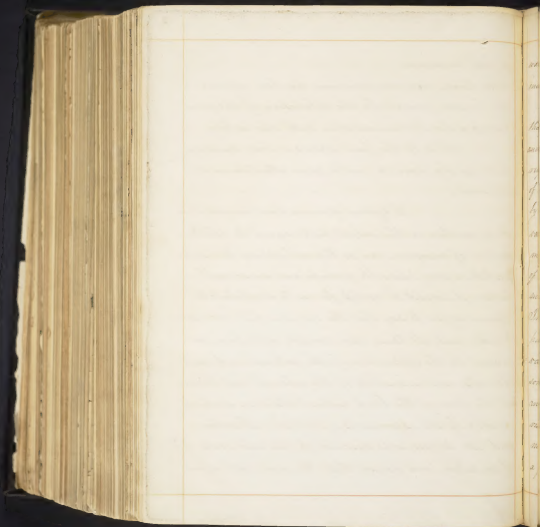


of false aneurism.

The term, varicose aneurism has been applied to the tumour formed by the dilatation of the vein, having a direct communication with the artery.

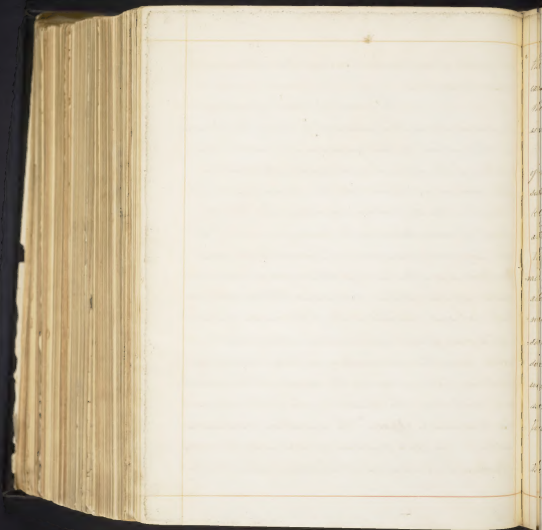
It is to the first species, or true aneurism, that we beg leave to invite your attention on this occasion.

Different opinions have been entertained by writers on this subject, with regard to the formation of aneurism, and, as they all appear to be supported on very plausible grounds, and are so well known, it would be useless for us to recapitulate them;—I suppose to say that the opinions of Dr. Williams Hunter, and all those who coincide with him, in regard to the distinction of the external and middle coats, and an inability of the internal coat to resist the force of the blood without dilatation is entirely refuted by the experiments of Mr. John Hunter and Mr. Home, who dissected off the outer coats of an artery, and found that the inner coat alone



was capable of carrying on the circulation without any increase of size.

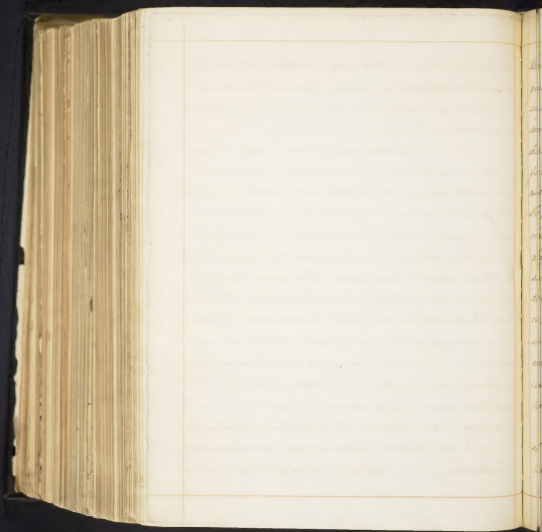
The generally received opinion of the present day is, that aneurism is formed by the rupture of the internal and middle with delatation of the external or cellular coat. This opinion was revived by Scarpa. The destruction may take place from a variety of causes. According to Wedgwood, "one of the most frequent appearances of disease, in the coats of arteries, is a deposition of albuminous or purulent matter in the cellular membrane that connects the External and Middle coats of the vessel, the discoloured part is of an opaque yellow colour, and generally elevated from the surrounding surface. Alterations sometimes take place on the surface of these elevations, and penetrating the Middle coats of the artery, give rise to aneurism." Again "The deposition of calcareous matter in the coats of arteries by exciting irritation as a foreign body gives rise to ulceration, which penetrates



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the internal and middle coats produces aneurism, the cause of these affections we cannot account for, and on the whole we must allow that the origin of aneurism is very obscure."

As aneurism may originate in any of the arteries of the body, it may be proper, for the sake of distinction, to divide them into two kinds or classes, viz. External and Superficial, or Internal and Deep seated. Thus aneurisms situated beyond the reach of art may be classed under the head of Internal Aneurism. To this division there may possibly be advanced an objection with respect to the Abdominal Aorta, which Sir Astley Cooper was sometimes enough to tie; but which operation has not since been repeated, and as his case terminated unfavorably we think the ~~same~~ objection will not hold - with this view of the subject we will proceed to give some of the regulations of aneurism.

In the External, or Superficial True Aneurism, the attention of the patient is attracted by a throbbing



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The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been
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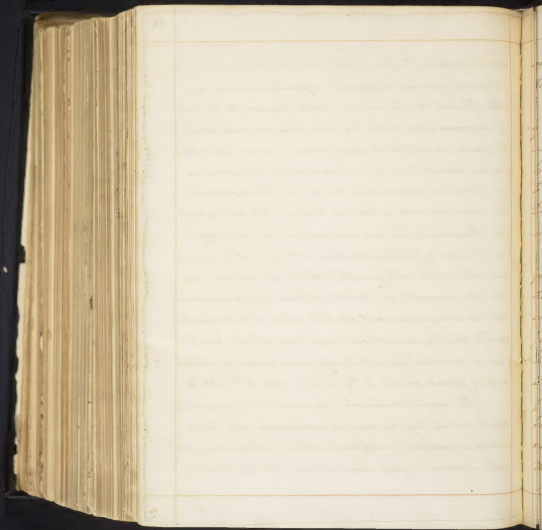






a dilatation of the artery, the canal of which continues previous as before." Spontaneous cure are often effected by the pressure of the tumour on the artery communicating with the sac; this happens when the disease is situated near a bone, a very interesting case is recorded by Dr. Davison which occurred in the Popliteal under the care of Dr. Whewell where the tumour was situated between the artery and St. Femoris, as the sac increased in size, art could not pass in a posterior direction it projected forward, and putting the artery on the stretch, its internal surface was brought in contact, adhesion inflammation was the consequence, and for the space of 4 inches the cavity of this important vessel was closed, Another case is recorded by Dr. Maycock, an account of which is to be found in the E. Repository Vol 8th 1824

We might enumerate numerous other cases of the kind, but as they are rare in comparison with those which require an operation for their radical cure, we will proceed to give some account of the treatment



employed for the cure of aneurism, and first of
the Medical Treatment:

This is more particularly applicable to Internal or Deep-seated Aneurism, and several modes of treatment have been adopted by surgeons, the most useful of which appears to consist in Bleeding frequently repeated, Low Diet, internal use of Digitalis with a view of lessening the force of the circulation, Rest and Opium.

There is not always much benefit to be expected from these means; though there is reason to believe that the rapid termination of the disease may in some instances be retarded, and in some instances a perfect cure may have been effected, we have the Authority of Collatani, Guetham, Barabba, and others to this effect. — No doubt in some cases this plan of treatment may be employed with propriety; but we think in the internal or true deep-seated aneurism much more dependence is to be placed on the Surgical Treatment. According to

1840

1. The first of the year was a very cold day, with a heavy frost, and a strong wind from the north.

2. On the 2nd, the weather was much warmer, and the wind shifted to the south.

3. On the 3rd, the sun shone brightly, and the temperature rose to a moderate degree.

4. On the 4th, a heavy rain fell, and the wind shifted to the west.

5. On the 5th, the rain continued, and the wind was strong from the west.

6. On the 6th, the rain ceased, and the sun shone brightly.

7. On the 7th, the weather was very warm, and the wind was light from the south.

8. On the 8th, a heavy rain fell, and the wind shifted to the north.

9. On the 9th, the rain continued, and the wind was strong from the north.

10. On the 10th, the rain ceased, and the sun shone brightly.

11. On the 11th, the weather was very warm, and the wind was light from the south.

12. On the 12th, a heavy rain fell, and the wind shifted to the north.

13. On the 13th, the rain continued, and the wind was strong from the north.

14. On the 14th, the rain ceased, and the sun shone brightly.

15. On the 15th, the weather was very warm, and the wind was light from the south.

16. On the 16th, a heavy rain fell, and the wind shifted to the north.

17. On the 17th, the rain continued, and the wind was strong from the north.

18. On the 18th, the rain ceased, and the sun shone brightly.

19. On the 19th, the weather was very warm, and the wind was light from the south.

20. On the 20th, a heavy rain fell, and the wind shifted to the north.

21. On the 21st, the rain continued, and the wind was strong from the north.

22. On the 22nd, the rain ceased, and the sun shone brightly.

23. On the 23rd, the weather was very warm, and the wind was light from the south.

24. On the 24th, a heavy rain fell, and the wind shifted to the north.

25. On the 25th, the rain continued, and the wind was strong from the north.

26. On the 26th, the rain ceased, and the sun shone brightly.

27. On the 27th, the weather was very warm, and the wind was light from the south.

28. On the 28th, a heavy rain fell, and the wind shifted to the north.

29. On the 29th, the rain continued, and the wind was strong from the north.

30. On the 30th, the rain ceased, and the sun shone brightly.